



NEWS RELEASE

City of South Fulton Government

Department of Communications and External Affairs

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South Fulton Partners with Atlanta Food Bank on Food Insecurity Program using ARPA Funds

(City of South Fulton, GA – March 11, 2022) – With food insecurity posing a serious challenge for many residents, the City of South Fulton is partnering with the Atlanta Community Food Bank to feed as many as 500 families a month during the next year.

Under the agreement, the food bank will source and provide between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds of food – some 175,000 meals – through monthly mobile food pantry distributions. Plans call for one mobile pantry to be held each month in a different, convenient location.

Earlier this year, city officials approved the use of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to cover the program's costs. In total, South Fulton is set to get \$11.35 million dollars in ARPA funds. It received half of the funding last May and will accept the remainder in May 2022.

"Many of our families face the challenge of not having enough to eat," said District Councilwoman Helen Z. Willis, who has spearheaded food distribution events since the start of the pandemic. "The Atlanta Community Food Bank has stepped in to help provide nutritious meals at food drives throughout the pandemic. We are grateful to work with them again as we try to stop our area's food desert."

Food bank officials say the global COVID-19 crisis has led to a food shortage not seen in its 42-year history. Data from the organization shows the number of people experiencing food insecurity in its service area grew by 30 percent to 1 million at the height of the pandemic.

While that number has decreased, the food bank reports nearly 128,000 people in Fulton County alone – including more than 34,000 children – continue to struggle with having enough to eat. Many are forced to choose between paying for needed medical care or medicine and buying food.

The food partnership is not the only thing the city is funding with ARPA dollars. Expanded internet service, stormwater improvements and assistance for local businesses and homeowners are among the initiatives it is pursuing.

"We are thankful to our leaders in Washington, D.C. for supporting our city's efforts to navigate our way through unprecedented times," said City Manager Tammi Saddler Jones. "We are committed to using these funds judiciously to support the needs of residents and the city as we recover and build a stronger South Fulton."

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South Fulton's American Rescue Plan Projects

South Fulton officials have divided the initiatives into three categories – community recovery, infrastructure improvements and operations and services. Following is a breakdown of the programs included in those areas:

Community Recovery – \$2.75 million

- Food Insecurity (\$210,000) – Provide food options and grow boxes;
- Small Business Grants (\$500,000) – Continue assistance for small businesses;
- Commercial Nodes (\$250,000) – Fund recovery efforts in strategic commercial zones;
- Rent/Mortgage (\$1.4 million) – Augment rent and mortgage assistance efforts;
- Vaccine Incentive (\$260,000) – Encourage residents/city staff to receive COVID vaccines;
- Community Outreach (\$70,000) – Support recovery efforts in each council district; and
- Development Authority (\$60,000) – Support Development Authority recovery efforts.

Infrastructure Improvements – \$4.05 million

- Stormwater Master Plan (\$1.05 million) – Develop stormwater management plan to ensure water control and quality;
- Stormwater Improvements (\$1.7 million) – Fund improvements to stormwater infrastructure; and
- Broadband and WiFi (\$1.3 million) – Assess opportunities to bring broadband internet to unserved areas and provide free wireless service at recreation centers.

Government Operations and Services – \$4.55 million

- Premium Pay (\$500,000) – Provide hazard pay to workers at risk of COVID exposure;
- Public Safety Employees Responding to Health Emergency (\$800,000) – Reimburse the city for regular and overtime payroll expenses for eligible public safety personnel.
- Facility Upgrades (\$600,000) – Improve secure access to city facilities to limit exposure;
- Technology Updates (\$260,000) – Support a secure mobilized workforce;
- Public Facility Improvements (\$1 million) – Improve air filtration, ventilation and UV lighting to prevent virus spread; add HVAC infrastructure to facilities without;
- Protective Measure (\$150,000) – Install sanitizing stations, temperature scans, cleaning materials and measures for social distancing;
- Revenue Loss (\$500,000) – Recoup a lost because of pandemic; and
- Administrative Costs (\$743,000) – Costs of administering ARPA projects.

About the City of South Fulton

Home to nearly 108,000 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's fifth-largest city. It covers more than 85 square miles and features both urban and rural landscapes with the most undeveloped land on metro Atlanta's southern side. Incorporated on May 1, 2017, South Fulton is among Georgia's youngest and fastest-growing cities – on the rise and recognized as the place you want to be. Learn more, download our smartphone app and connect with us on social media at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.